



The Update:

News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

September 2012

Welcome to the Fall Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue highlights Federal Regulations—Webinars; EI Program Directors' Training & ICC Retreat—Save the Dates; Past Editions of The Update; EITC CEIS Update; Request for Reimbursement; The IN-TIME Infant Mental Health Training Model; Focused Monitoring Outcomes from FY12; NCSEAM Family Survey Update; and DPH Correspondence

Federal Regulations—Webinars

The Part C Federal Regulations were published in the Federal Register on September 28, 2011, and went into effect on October 28, 2011 (30 days after the date published). States must revise policies, procedures and methods to align with the Federal Regulations. The changes went into effect July 1, 2012 and Massachusetts provided assurances, in its Part C Application, that it will come into compliance as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 2013. The Department has been holding a series of webinars throughout the summer to address the changes in the Federal Regulations and the impact to the Massachusetts EI system.

The webinar topics include: changes to the Early Intervention Operational Standards (EIOS); Evaluation/Assessment/Eligibility; IFSP & Transition requirements; and Procedural Safeguards. Each session will be recorded, archived and made available for providers who are unable to participate and/or for future reference. The first three webinars are now available on the Parent Leadership website at www.eiplp.org under Basic Information:

Implementation of the Part C Federal Regulations Webinar Series

- ♦ [EI Operational Standards Webinar 7/18/12](#)
- ♦ [Eligibility/Evaluation/Assessment and IFSP Webinar 8/2/12](#)
- ♦ [Transition Requirements/Data Guidance Webinar 8/15/12](#)
- ♦ Procedural Safeguards I 8/29/12
- ♦ Procedural Safeguards II 9/11/12



EI Program Directors' Training & ICC Retreat—Save the Dates

The Department will be holding a **Program Directors' Training on October 2, 2012**, from 10 am – 3pm, the day before the ICC Retreat, at the Wachusett Inn. This training will further discuss programmatic changes related to the federal regulations implementation and other DPH initiatives. Sharon Walsh, a private consultant, will be joining us to discuss the intent behind the changes in the Federal Regulations. There will also be an opportunity to share DPH/EITC Updates and to meet with colleagues regarding implementation of changes related to Evaluation/Assessment, IFSP Development, and Transition. Program Directors are welcome to register other staff such as Team Leaders or Supervisors to participate in this training opportunity.

The **ICC Retreat** scheduled on **October 3 & 4, 2012** will focus on Child & Family Outcomes, Federal and State Update, and a historical look at the growth in the EI system.

Kathy Hebbeler, consultant from SRI, will be participating in the retreat via webinar and will focus on the importance of child and family outcomes, and integration of outcomes in our ongoing work. The DPH will share state child and family resources with programs.

The second day will provide an opportunity to hear from Commissioners Auerbach of DPH and Killins of EEC regarding early childhood initiatives. There will also be a Federal Update and a historical timeline video entitled "***Reflect on the Past ~ Think toward the Future.***"



Past Editions of "The Update"

Past editions of the **EI Newsletter "The Update,"** dating back to August 2007, are posted on the Parent Leadership Project at www.eiplp.org under Basic Information. Programs may now go to the Archive of Articles to search by topic area, article name and the issue of The Update.



Massachusetts Early Intervention Training Center EITC Update

The process for Certification of Early Intervention Specialists has been revised and as of July 1, 2012, the Department of Public Health is accepting applications for certification in the **CEIS 2012** format. In order to meet the training needs of providers compiling their CEIS portfolios, the Early Intervention Training Center has revised its orientation offerings.

The orientation will consist of a series of online prerequisites followed by a 2-part, face-to-face **Building A Community** (BAC) training. The online modules will provide an overview of the foundations of early intervention theory and practice. The subsequent face-to-face sessions will offer an opportunity for participants to apply the knowledge gained through the online training. The focus of the face-to-face sessions will be for participants to share ideas with facilitators and other participants, and actively practice using and applying their knowledge via video observation, role play, case study, and small and large group discussion.

Participants will complete training in the following sequence:

1. Complete four online modules:

"History of Massachusetts Early Intervention, Part I"

"Principles and Practices of Early Intervention: Child Development"

"Home Visiting for Early Intervention Specialists" (***coming in September 2012***)

"Battelle Developmental Inventory Overview Webinar" (***coming in September 2012***)

2. Attend Building A Community Part I

3. Complete second series of online modules:

"History of Massachusetts EI, Part II": (***coming in November 2012***)

"Supporting Infant & Early Childhood Social-Emotional Well-being: Introduction to Theory & Practice"

"Connecting the Dots: Early Childhood Transition"

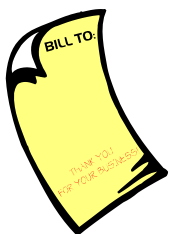
"How to Complete a CEIS Portfolio in Three Years"

4. Attend Building A Community Part II

The Early Intervention Training Calendar is posted on the Early Intervention Training Center web site and registration is open for fall offerings. Please log onto www.eitrainingcenter.org to register. Five of the eight required online modules are currently available at the EI Training Center web site. The remaining three modules will be available later this fall.

After successful completion of these four components of orientation, participants will be awarded 12 of the 16 required competencies for Entry I of the CEIS 2012 Portfolio.

Request for Reimbursement



Reminder. Effective August 6, 2012, most "**Waivers/Requests for Reimbursement**" should be submitted to **Sue Murray**, via sfed at susan.murray@eohhs-sfed.state.ma.us or faxed to 978-640-1027 using the attached form. Requests specific to specialty service issues should be submitted to **Tracy Osbahr**, via sfed at tracy.osbahr@eohhs-sfed.state.ma.us or faxed to 413-784-1037.

The IN-TIME Infant Mental Health Training Model

MA Early Intervention and the EI Training Center (EITC) are collaborating with the Connected Beginnings Training Institute (CBTI) to use the IN-TIME training model to create an online module and conduct staff training.

CBTI developed the IN-TIME Training in Infant Mental Health in 2004, with revisions in 2012. IN-TIME is a hybrid model which draws from interdisciplinary, research-based training materials, including the CSEFEL Pyramid Model Infant-Toddler and PIWI (Parents Interacting with Infants) modules, and other resources. The model uses face-to-face live and on-line knowledge-based teaching, field-based and video observation, small group discussion and embedded small group, peer reflective supervision practice.

The IN-TIME training model was developed at the CBTI, whose goal is to provide training aimed at enhancing the social and emotional well-being of young children within their families, their communities, and their early care and education pro-

grams. CBTI is an initiative of the Aspire Institute at Wheelock College, whose mission is to advance knowledge and solutions in response to social and educational challenges.

The EITC in collaboration with Connected Beginnings will provide training for up to 20 EI specialists, child care and Head Start providers to become trainers in the IN-TIME social-emotional model. They will also support mentorships for about 10 of the trained individuals to provide training to others in this mixed delivery system.

The training of trainers has been tentatively scheduled November 30th and December 7, 2012 at the Criterion Valley Early Intervention Program, 375 Fortune Boulevard, Milford, MA from 9am - 5pm each day. Additional information regarding registration will be forthcoming. Please share this information with staff and consider taking advantage of this training opportunity!



Focused Monitoring Outcomes from FY12

During FY 2012, ten (10) EI programs received focused monitoring onsite visits throughout the State. Programs were chosen for a variety of priority areas including transition, family outcomes, and change in service. For the first time, the Department also visited programs around local determinations, and those programs in the "Needs Intervention" category (as required by the MA General Supervision System). Most onsite visits consisted of 2-3 full days at the EI program with planning calls and meetings completed in advance by the DPH team.



Overall outcomes of the focused monitoring process for this year were:

- ♦ Creation and distribution of a narrated PowerPoint for NCSEAM Family Survey. It explains the reason for the data collection, best practices for disseminating the survey, and what is done with the information after surveys are returned. This PowerPoint can be used with both families and EI Staff and is available on the EI PLP website at www.eiplp.org.
- ♦ Creation and distribution of an FAQ sheet about the NCSEAM Family Survey for individual service coordinators.
- ♦ Creation of a list of EIIS reports that will become standard reports for each onsite visit in coming years.
- ♦ Creation of reports for programs to supply data on strengths and needs in individual programs.
- ♦ Enhanced summary report format.
- ♦ Changes to BAC I & II to address training needs identified in onsite visits
- ♦ Creation of the TEAM (Training and Enhanced Assistance Model) – an individualized process for program training and technical assistance. It was developed to support programs who would like to partner with DPH for technical assistance.

Focused Monitoring Outcomes from FY12 (continued)

While visiting programs throughout the State, information regarding systematic inconsistencies was collected. The DPH is in the process of providing additional guidance for consistent program implementation on the following topics:

- ◆ Use of Written Prior Notice
- ◆ Written notice of eligibility
- ◆ Clinical Judgment including eligibility determination process, tools used and documentation within the written notice of eligibility and record.

NCSEAM Family Survey Update

Just a reminder that October is the next distribution period for the **NCSEAM Family Survey**. Please be aware that you may use any Surveys left over from the March dissemination – the new shorter version of the Family Survey. All Surveys are coded by EI Program so will be counted towards your program totals. Surveys should be given to families whose children have been enrolled at least six months and who did not complete the Survey last March. You will be receiving a list of children who meet these criteria via SFED in September. Remember, the expectation is that a family will only complete **one** Survey a year!

The information gathered from the Family Survey demonstrates the importance and usefulness of Early Intervention services and helps identify best practices as well as ways to improve the system.

Please keep track of how many Surveys you give to families. We will be sending out a form for you to




complete and return letting the Department know how many English and Spanish Surveys were distributed. This information, combined with the number of Surveys returned to our vendor, Piedra Data Services, will give a much more accurate picture of response rates.

Please use the resources that are available on the PLP website at www.eiplp.org/family_survey.html, which includes a narrated PowerPoint providing an overview of the NCSEAM survey and how the information is used, a video (multiple formats) and the FAQ sheet for Service Coordinators.

The DPH appreciates your support in this ongoing effort to ensure that families have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding their EI experience. If you need more surveys or have any questions about Survey dissemination, please feel free to contact Suzanne Gottlieb at Suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us.

DPH Correspondence

 **D**o you ever get the feeling the information flow from the DPH is never ending? The DPH acknowledges that a huge amount of information has been sent out to the field in the last several months that reflect the changes in the Federal Regulation, the Specialty Services Integration process, Transition Survey Application; Annual Report/Self Assessment, etc. The following is a list of memos, guidances, updates, that have been distributed since June 1, 2012—feel free to print out the page to use as a resource.

If you have not received any of the following or have any questions please contact your regional specialist. The Department will send out bi-weekly or monthly reminders of all correspondence sent out and where the information should be put into the Policy Manual.

Comments and questions to:
Patti Fougere
Assistant Director of Early Childhood Programs
617-624-5975
patti.fougere@state.ma.us

DPH Correspondence

TOPIC	SUBJECT LINE OF EMAIL	DATE SENT	# attach
Annual Report 2012	UPDATE: FY 2012 Annual Report/Self-Assessment	8/14/2012	0
Billing	Initial Visit/Intake Clarification and EITC Updates	8/9/2012	2
Billing	EI Autism Specialty Service - DPH Billing Guidance	8/8/2012	1
Billing	FY 2013 - DPH SDR Updates - Autism Specialty Services Addendum	6/11/2012	1
Billing	Electronic Support Documentation Submissions to DPH	5/30/2012	0
CEIS	Resources for CEIS 2012	8/1/2012	1
EIIS	EIIS Upgrade is Here	8/17/2012	3
EIIS	EIIS Upgrades	6/29/2012	1
EIIS	EIIS Upgrade - The New Federal Regulations for Transition Plan	6/15/2012	3
EIIS	EIIS upgrade	6/12/2012	2
EITC	FW: Exciting Post-Master's Early Childhood Opportunity	8/20/2012	2
EITC	Initial Visit/Intake Clarification and EITC Updates	8/9/2012	2
Federal Regs/ Webinar	Implementation of Federal Part C Regulations - Upcoming Webinars	7/3/2012	2
IFSP	Implementation of Federal Part C Regulations - Upcoming Webinars	7/3/2012	2
Office of Family Initiatives	Resource for you	8/23/2012	1
RCP	RCP - Respite Funds	6/22/2012	0
SEA-opt out Transitions	Webinar July 18, 2012 resource	7/18/2012	4
SPP (autism)	SSP/EIP Integration updates	7/13/2012	2
SPP (autism)	Transmission of personal data	7/3/2012	0
SSP	EI Autism Specialty Service - DPH Billing Guidance	8/8/2012	1
SSP (autism)	Guidance re: notification to families of Specialty Service Providers for children with ASD	8/15/2012	1
SSP (autism)	Requests for reimbursement; SSP Referral form	8/2/2012	2
SSP (autism)	SSP Referral and Initial Start up Guidance	7/3/2012	2
SSP (autism)	Important clarifications re: SSP/EIP integration	6/29/2012	2
SSP (autism)	Administrative Bulletin re: Integration of Specialized Early Intervention Services	6/8/2012	0
SSP (autism)	EIP/SSP Integration Webinar Q&A	6/7/2012	1
Transitions/ TSS FY13	Webinar Reminder and Materials	8/13/2012	4
TSS FY12 & FY13	FY 2012 and FY 2013 Transition Survey Information	7/16/2012	1
TSS FY13	FY 2013 Transition Survey System-was sent via SFED	7/3/2012	0
TSS FY13	New Transition Federal Requirements & FY13 Transition Survey System	6/21/2012	1
Waivers	Requests for reimbursement; SSP Referral form	8/2/2012	2
Webinar	Webinar #1 is posted (on PLP website)	8/8/2012	0
Webinar	Webinar reminder: Thursday 8/2/12 9:30-11am (for #2)	8/1/2012	2
Webinar	Webinar July 18, 2012 resource	7/18/2012	4
Webinar/ Transitions	Webinar Reminder and Materials	8/13/2012	4